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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [] the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Trade advised the Austrian Legation in Prague on 8 October 1953 that [] the present Austro-Czech Trade Agreement should not be extended. [] trade talks be held in Prague during November or early December to prepare a new agreement by the beginning of 1954.

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2. Czech officials promise steps to improve trade relations between Czechoslovakia and Austria and indicate that a new policy, more acceptable to Austria, will be adopted.¹

3. The expected Czech demand that the dollar basis for Austro-Czech trade be discontinued is already strongly opposed by a key official in the Austrian Ministry of Trade and by the Austrian Legation in Prague. It is suggested² that Austria make a dropping of the dollar basis dependent upon restoration of normal economic conditions in both countries and a return to the Austro-Czech Trade Agreement of 6 May 1951.

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1. [] Comment: The Austrian Minister in Prague believes that Czech difficulties, especially the Czech need for food imports, explain what is a real effort to improve trade relations with Austria.

2. [] Comment: Apparently by these Austrian officials.

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